

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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O 220840Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5680

S E C R E T SAIGON 5427

EXDIS

FOR AMBASSADOR BROWN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AEMR VS

SUBJ: E AND E

1. MY AUSTRALIAN COLLEAGUE JUST CAME IN VERY PERTURBED STATE SAYING HE HAD JUST BEEN SIGNALLED FROM CANBERRA THAT THEY HAD BEEN INFORMED FROM WASHINGTON THAT ON THE 23RD OF APRIL THERE WOULD BE A FINAL AND TOTAL MASS EVACUATION OF AMERICANS.

2. HIS INFORMATION MATCHES MINE IN THAT THERE HAS BEEN CONSIDERABLE LULL IN MILITARY ACTION OVERNIGHT. HE WAS THEREFORE AT LOSS TO UNDERSTAND REASON FOR SUCH AMERICAN ACTION WHICH CANBERRA WAS AFRAID WOULD BE ONE THING WHICH WOULD TRIGGER PANIC IN SAIGON, AND THEREFORE ORDERED HIM OUT TO AVOID CONSEQUENCES OF U.S. ACTIONS NOT OF EITHER GVN OR NVA ACTION.

3. I TOLD HIM I KNEW OF NO SUCH ORDER. I AGREED THAT IT WOULD SEEM TO BE UNNECESSARY JUST NOW, ALTHOUGH WE WERE KEEPING VERY WARY ALERT. I SAID ALTHOUGH ONE COULD NEVER WHOLLY EXCLUDE UNPREDICTABLE ACTIONS OF PRINCIPALS TEMPTED TO ACT ON RUMORS OR PRESS REPORTING IN LIEU OF HARD FACTS. HOWEVER, I SAID I THOUGHT MY PRINCIPALS WERE A LITTLE MORE SENSIBLE AND RESPONSIBLE THAN THAT AND AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY HAD PROBABLY PICKED UP THIS REPORT FROM LOW LEVEL SOURCE.

4. I SAID OUR REPORT OF LAST MIDNIGHT (OUR CUT OFF HOUR)

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WOULD SHOW 2,241 DEPARTURES THROUGH OUR LIFT, 674 OF WHOM WERE

AMERICAN CITIZENS. I SAID ACTUALLY A TOTAL OF 2,700 DEPARTURES HAD TAKEN PLACE SINCE PLANES OPERATED AFTER MIDNIGHT.

5. HIS PLAN WAS TO SEND OUT ABOUT EIGHT OF HIS REMAINING STAFF TOMORROW, AND MAKE NO DECISION ON OTHERS UNTIL SATURDAY. I SAID I WAS GIVING NO ADVICE BUT I THOUGHT THAT SENSIBLE.

6. JUST THOUGHT YOU MIGHT LIKE TO KNOW HOW OUR UNGUARDED COMMENTS ARE REGARDED ELSEWHERE.

MARTIN

SECRET

NNN

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